

WORKPLACE CONNECTION

"ENRICHING LIVES"

July / August 2005

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Tsunami relief fund checks were presented on behalf of County employees to the Salvation Army and the American Red Cross. From left, Major Steve Smith receives a check from Supervisor Yaroslavsky; Roger Dickson and Jill Valenti receive a check while Major Smith observes; and Supervisor Yaroslavsky and CAO Janssen receive a commendation from American Red Cross representatives Dickson and Valenti. Photos by Martin Zamora

County Employees, Retirees Contribute \$32,412 to Tsunami Relief

Active and retired County employees donated \$32,412.32 to victims of the tsunami in Southeast Asia in a voluntary fundraising effort started by the Board of Supervisors on January 4.

Two checks, in the amount of \$16,206.16 each, were presented to the American Red Cross and the Salvation Army by Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky and Chief Administrative Officer David E. Janssen. Both organizations continue to offer services to the victims of the natural disaster.

Jill Valenti, chairperson, board of directors, and Roger Dickson, chief executive officer, of the American Red Cross, joined Major Steve Smith of the Salvation Army in accepting the checks at the July 19 Board of Supervisors meeting.

"Nearly every County department contributed to the tsunami relief fund," said Supervisor Yaroslavsky. "There also were donations from retired employees."

"County employees once again have shown their generosity and

compassion for people in need," said CAO Janssen. "We are all proud of the County workforce."

Checks in amounts ranging from \$5 to \$1,000 were received from 20 County departments. Employees in the Department of Public Social Services raised 36.5 percent of the total funds donated, followed by the Assessor at 20.6 percent and Child Support Services with nearly 12 percent.

Also contributing were Registrar-Recorder, Executive Office/Board of Supervisors, Chief Administrative Office, Public Works, Sanitation Districts, Beaches and Harbors, Treasurer-Tax Collector, Children and Family Services, Coroner, Human Resources, Public Library, Human Relations, Internal Services, Sheriff, Community Development Commission, Superior Court and the Los Angeles County Employees Retirement Association.

Active employees as a group donated all but \$950 of the total \$32,412.32. The Retired Employees of Los Angeles County (RELAC) supported the voluntary campaign with an article in its bi-monthly newsletter.

"Our employees, both active and retired, are to be commended for their support of the victims of the tsunami in Southeast Asia," added CAO Janssen.

MTA, County Activate #399, for Cellars

Metropolitan Transportation Authority and the Los Angeles County Service Authority for Freeway Emergencies have activated a non-emergency help number for cellular phone users needing roadside assistance while on County freeways.

"Pound 399"—the digits 399 preceded by the "pound key"—will allow motorists to summon help from their Auto Club or the Metro Freeway Service Patrol.

The caller will be connected to a live operator at no charge. However, cell phone carriers may assess minute charges.

2005
County of Los Angeles
Charitable Giving Campaign

"Changing Our Community"

For more information, contact your
department coordinator or call
CAO/Workplace Programs at
(213) 974-2466 or (213) 974-2423



Laura Lathrop Warriner and her sister, Jeannette Lathrop Harper, on a bike ride.

Outdoors Lover Laura Lathrop Bikes to Work

Laura Lathrop, LCSW, MPH, works in the Child and Adolescent Health unit of the Department of Health Services and knows, first hand, the value of good health and the great outdoors. "Bike to Work Day" in May was just another opportunity to appreciate the things in life some take for granted.

She clearly was on a mission when departing her Canyon Country home one recent day in May for the 40-mile bike ride to work at Commonwealth Avenue and

Sixth Street.

"While skiing in Mammoth with family and friends in 2002 I was hit by a snowboarder, sustaining a compound fracture to my right leg," she recalled recently. "During 12 weeks of recuperation, I had to learn to walk again. I never thought I'd be in physical therapy and out of work."

Her life had always been full of physical activity. She danced, taught aerobics, enjoyed hiking, backpacking and

cross-country skiing. Ms. Lathrop was dedicated to good health and exercise.

She "finally came back (to work for) a few days a week on the train. You don't want to know how hard it really was to get to work," said Ms. Lathrop. "So the big story behind 'Bike to Work Day' for me is that two years ago I could barely walk."

With motivation and determination she went back to the gym, regaining strength and physical ability. "I could walk the treadmill and elliptical machines, but my leg would not let me jump on and off the STEP platform, so I tried a SPIN class.

"After spending hours talking to my sister about spinning classes, she encouraged me to try a road bike," said Ms. Lathrop. "I was scared of the skinny tires, but in 2003 I rented a road bike and joined an organized ride. I was hooked.

"I got over my fear of the skinny tires and I have a healthy, hyper-vigilance when in traffic," she said with a smile. Ms. Lathrop purchased a bike more than a year ago and has started to ride metric centuries (approximately 75 miles). And what does the future hold?

"My sister and I currently are planning a 5-day ride on the Maine Gold Coast in September to celebrate our 50th birthdays!"

Schedule Expanded For Freeway Patrols

Metro Freeway Service Patrol has expanded its weekend and midday service to better serve stranded motorists, officials announced recently.

Currently, 44 service vehicles patrol 400 miles of County freeways on weekdays, up from 33, and 43 operate on weekends, up from 28. The service operates from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. on weekdays and from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on weekends.

State highway funds and Proposition C, a half-cent sales tax approved by County voters in 1990, paid for expansion of the Metro Freeway Service Patrol.

4 New Bus Lines Join MTA's Fleet

Mid-year bus service changes recently were implemented by the Metropolitan Transportation Authority, including the addition of two new Metro Rapid Lines—one on Beverly Boulevard (Line 714) and a second along Fairfax Avenue (Line 717).

Santa Monica's Big Blue Bus also will add a rapid bus line, primarily along Lincoln Boulevard, between Santa Monica and Los Angeles International Airport, according to Rick Jager of the MTA.

Rapid buses have sensors that enable drivers to extend a green light or switch a red light to green more quickly, making for a faster ride for commuters.

Other service changes include Line 450X, the new freeway express bus line operating weekdays during peak morning and afternoon hours. Line 450X runs from the Artesia Transit Center along the Harbor Freeway Transitway into downtown Los Angeles, stopping at

the Seventh Street Metro Red Line and in the Financial District.

MTA has launched shuttle bus service Line 645 in San Fernando Valley to replace the canceled segment of the former Line 245. Line 645 runs from Warner Center to Topanga Canyon, Mulholland, Valley Circle, Vanowen, Fallbrook and Sherman Way to West Hills Medical Center.

According to MTA officials, weekend service along the segment has been discontinued in anticipation of the Metro Orange Line opening later this year.

In addition, midday service cancellations have been made on Line 202 (Willowbrook/Compton/Wilmington) and Line 211/215 (Prairie/Inglewood Avenues). Midday and Saturday service has ended on Line 168 (Lassen/Paxton Streets).

For specific route information and schedules, call (800) COMMUTE or visit www.metro.net.

Save the Date!!!

**Aids Walk Los Angeles
Sunday, Oct. 16, 2005
West Hollywood**

County's March Of Dimes Campaign Exceeds \$280,000

County employees generously donated more than \$280,000 to the annual March of Dimes WalkAmerica campaign, including \$15,000 raised from the "Blue Jeans for Babies Day" fundraiser in July.

"I am proud of the dedication and commitment our employees show each year to the March of Dimes campaign," said Chief Administrative Officer David E. Janssen. "All of the monies raised are used to fund important research to prevent premature births."

Supervisor Gloria Molina and Janssen served as Chair and Co-Chair, respectively, of the voluntary countywide effort. Also serving as co-chairs were County Department heads Violet Varona-Lukens, Executive Office/Board of Supervisors, Dr. Thomas Garthwaite, Health Services, Bryce Yokomizo, Public Social Services, and Pastor Herrera, Consumer Affairs.

More than 500 County employees and department heads participated in the annual March of Dimes WalkAmerica event at Griffith Park in April. Additional fundraisers included tamale sales, book displays, barbecues, and opportunity drawings, Med-Walks at County hospitals, an online departmental auction, Dodger games and "Blue Jeans for Babies Day" fundraiser on July 6 and 7.

The County of Los Angeles 2005 March of Dimes campaign took second place in the Public Sector category, relinquishing the traveling trophy to the City of Los Angeles during the annual awards ceremony at the Omni Hotel.

County March of Dimes WalkAmerica coordinators did receive special recognition for outstanding achievement.

"We at the March of Dimes benefit greatly from the friendly competition between the City and County of Los Angeles," said Rita Hopkins, Executive Director, March of Dimes Los Angeles.

Medical walks to support the March of Dimes also were held during May and June at Rancho Los Amigos, Harbor-UCLA, King-Drew, and LAC+USC as well as at Hubert Humphrey, Ed Roybal and H. Claude Hudson health centers.

Supervisor Yvonne Burke and the Second District staff enthusiastically supported "Blue Jeans for Babies Day" with 100% participation. A total of \$15,000 was raised Countywide for the March of Dimes.

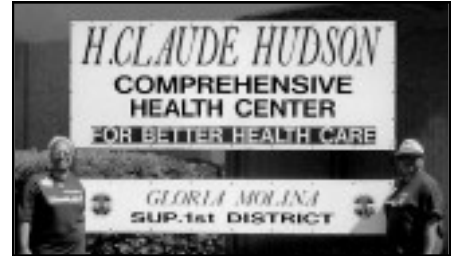


Supporting the "Blue Jeans for Babies Day" are members of Supervisor Burke's staff, first row, from left, Asst. Chief Deputy Chuck Bookkhammer, Del Huff, Judith Leslie-Thomas, and Asst. Chief Deputy Mike Bohlke; and Monica Anderson, Evelyn Baber, Nancy Aastrom, Maria Beltran, Renita Bowlin, Maria Cerdas, Elia Cervantes, Martha Corona-Cortez, Mike Davis, Doris LaCour, Denise Navarro, Julia Orozco, Gerardo Pineda, David Ryu, Randi Tahara, Joe Torres III, Hope Valles and Shawn Wallace.



Supervisor Burke

Michael Herndon



Gloria Engram, campaign coordinator, joins a fellow employee in getting ready for the walk.



Carolyn S. Clark, seated at right, administrator at the H. Claude Hudson Health Center, joins staff members, from left, Long Huu Tran, Yvonne Fleming, Asuncion Carreon and Katherine Jackson for the Med-Walk.



Employees at the H. Claude Hudson Health Center prepare for a Med-Walk to benefit the County's March of Dimes WalkAmerica campaign.

County departments sending in donations were Executive Office/Board of Supervisors, Department of Children and Family Services, Internal Services, Probation, Health Services, Public Social Services, Treasurer-Tax Collector and Mental Health. Also contributing

were Affirmative Action, Agriculture Commissioner, Alternate Public Defender, Assessor, Auditor-Controller, Beaches and Harbors, Consumer Affairs, Fire, Human Resources, Parks and Recreation, Public Library, Public Works and Sheriff.

Sunday, September 11, 2005

County Parade Set at L.A. Fair

Los Angeles County Day at the Fair" will be celebrated with a gala parade on Sunday, September 11, 2005, beginning at noon at the Los Angeles County Fair in Pomona.

County supervisors, department heads, employees and public service vehicles, floats and bands will gather near the clock tower for the parade. A special County exhibit, "I Love L.A. County," is on display in the Fair's Building 4.

Regular weekend admission is \$15 for adults and \$8 for children, however ages 5 and under are admitted FREE! With the exclusive **Los Angeles County Day** coupon available with August 15 paychecks, employees will receive 2-for-1 pricing for adults and children (limit two free admissions per coupon).

Additional coupons will be available from the County Public Affairs Office at **(213) 974-1363**.

2005 Theme: "Changing Our Community"

The County of Los Angeles will kick-off its 2005 Charitable Giving Campaign in August with the annual meeting of departmental coordinators at the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, 500 W. Temple Street.

"Changing Our Community" will be the theme of the voluntary, countywide effort, which will be authorized by a Board of Supervisors motion next month.

A large number of County retirements in the past several years has led to a renewed emphasis on payroll deduction for the Board-approved fund distribution agencies (FDA)—United Way, Brotherhood Crusade, Asian Pacific Community Fund, Earth Share of California and the United Latino Fund.

All donations raised by County employees are designated for one of the five FDAs. Employees, however, may directly designate their donation for a specific agency simply by listing the name of the group on the payroll

deduction form.

Charitable giving coordinators will lead the fundraising effort within each County department, scheduling activities and meetings with FDA representatives.

Upcoming countywide fundraisers planned include bake sales, opportunity drawings, entertainment books, beanie babies and the JP Morgan Chase Open, featuring the top women in tennis, Aug. 8 through 14 at the Home Depot Center in Carson.

"County of Los Angeles Night" will be held on Friday, Aug. 12, and includes a free give-a-way of bobblehead dolls of 2004 Wimbledon champion Maria Sharapova. Special discounts are available for County employees.

For tickets, contact Matt Huff at (213) 742-7578. You also may call your departmental charitable giving campaign coordinator or CAO Workplace Programs at (213) 974-2619.



Evet Markarian, Auditor-Controller, was an opportunity drawing winner during the 2004 campaign kickoff.



Tina Barcenas, center, received a gift certificate last year from Victoria P. Lane, right, director, CAO Workplace Programs, and Natalia Jimenez, campaign coordinator.

Calendar of Events

JP Morgan Chase Open

(Women's Tennis), August 8-14

County of L.A. Night, August 12

Home Depot Center, Carson, CA

County Day at the Fair

Los Angeles County Fairplex
in Pomona, Sunday, September 11,
12 noon near Clock Tower

Civic Center "Clean Air Rideshare Fair"

Mall Area, Hahn Hall
Thursday, October 6
11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The Summer's Ultimate Tennis Celebration

COME SEE THE BIGGEST STARS IN WOMEN'S TENNIS!

Serena Williams
Lindsay Davenport
Maria Sharapova

Jennifer Capriati
Kim Clijsters
Venus Williams

Players scheduled to appear are subject to change.

LA COUNTY EMPLOYEE DISCOUNTS**



2005 JPMORGAN CHASE OPEN

WTA Tennis Tournament

Aug 8 - 14, 2005

Home Depot Center in Carson, CA

Near the 91, 405, and 110 Freeways

Date	Time	Courtside		Lower Box		Reserved	
		LAC PRICE	REG. PRICE	LAC PRICE	REG. PRICE	LAC PRICE	REG. PRICE
Mon - Thurs Aug 8 - 11	11:00 a.m.	\$35.25	\$60.50	\$25.25	\$45.50	\$12.75	\$15.50
Mon - Thurs Aug 8 - 11	7:00 p.m.	\$40.25	\$70.50	\$30.25	\$50.50	\$17.75	\$25.50
Fri. Aug 12	12:00 p.m.	\$35.25	\$60.50	\$25.25	\$45.50	\$12.75	\$15.50
Fri. Aug 12	7:00 p.m.	\$75.00	\$95.50	\$45.00	\$65.50	\$25.00	\$30.50
Sat. Aug 13	1:00 p.m.	\$75.00	\$95.50	\$45.00	\$65.50	\$25.00	\$30.50
Sat. Aug 13	7:00 p.m.	\$75.00	\$95.50	\$45.00	\$65.50	\$25.00	\$30.50
Sun. Aug 14	1:00 p.m.	\$85.00	\$110.50	\$55.00	\$75.50	\$35.00	\$45.50

**PLEASE MENTION THAT YOU ARE A L.A. COUNTY EMPLOYEE (AND FOR WHICH DEPARTMENT) TO RECEIVE THE DISCOUNTS AND FOR YOUR DEPARTMENT TO RECEIVE CREDIT.

A PORTION OF ALL TICKET PURCHASES WILL BE DONATED BACK TO COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES CHARITABLE GIVING.

FEATURED PROMOS*

THURS. 7 P.M. - FREE GRANT TENNIS BALL
FRI. 7 P.M. - FREE MARIA SHARAPOVA, DOBBLEHEAD AND LA COUNTY EMPLOYEE NIGHT
SAT. 1 P.M. - FREE TENNIS RACQUETS
SAT. 7 P.M. - FREEWORKS EXTRAVAGANZA
SUN. 1 P.M. - FREE JPMORGAN CHASE CAP

*NO MORE \$2000 ATTENDANCE

TO ORDER TICKETS, CONTACT MATT HUFF

(213) 742-7578

Email at mhuff@ocpla.com



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